and others based at Anara, District Purulia, West Bengal for opening a branch of a public sector bank at the centre.

(b) The application will be examined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the ensuing Branch Licensing Policy which is being finalised by them. However, the centre Anara is presently served by a branch of the Mallabhum Gramin Bank.

(c) to (e) Regional Rural Banks are permitted to undertake transactions relating to drawing of pay, making of drafts, collection of cheques, etc., except locker facility, and the separate or special permission of the Government of India is not necessary. The Anara Branch of the Mallabhum Gramin Bank can undertake these facilities subject to their administrative convenience.

Removal of discrimination in respect of special duty allowance

3409. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of Central Government employees of North Eastern Region, Shillong met him on 17th August, 1990 in conection with removal of discrimination in respect of grant of Special Duty Allowance being granted to certain categories of employees of Central Government working in N.E. Region; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the discrimination and to rationalise the scheme of Special Duty Allowance ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special (Duty) Allowance has been granted as an incentive for attracting and retaining the services of competent officer's having all India transfer liability, on posting in North Eastern Region. However, over the years due to various reasons including Court judgements, it has een extended to some other categories of Central Government employees who were not initially intended to be covered under the scheme. The scheme is being reviewed to ensure that the benefit of Special (Duty) Allowance is given to only those categories for whom it was intended.

Payment of dues to the retired employees of State Bank of Indore branches in Delhi

3410. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of clerks typists/Head clerks whose services were terminated or who voluntarily retired during November, 1987 to June, 1988 in the State Bank of Indore branches of Delhi, who have not been paid their Provident fund/gratuity dues despite a lapse of more than three years after their retirement/termination;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in payment of such dues; and

(c) what action has been taken to ensure payment of their dues without further delay ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) *Information is* being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and feasible.

Man Power Planning, Traning and Development Division in ITDC

3411. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any 'man-power planning, training and development division in ITDC;

(b) if so, what has been its annual manpower forecasting/planning, placement and developmental activities during sixth and seventh plan periods upto December, 1989 and the amount spent on each of these activities during the said period; and

(c) what is the number of executives and non-executives categorywise and unit/divisionwise who have been recruited/selected, trained and placed against the permanent sanctioned posts in different units/divisions of ITDC during the above period and as based on the ITDC's Manpower Planning/forecasting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a) to